Budget for NIMHANS

*302. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the budget allocation for National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences in Bangalore during 2003-2004;

(b) whether it has come to Government notice that there is a cut in grants-in-aid by the State Government due to financial crisis;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action to sanction additional budget to NIMHANS to carry on its activities; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to hike the user charges for patients to tackle the financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) During the year 2003-04, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore has been allocated an amount of Rs. 24 crores under Plan and Rs. 14.50 crores under Non-Plan by the Government of India. Government of Karnataka has allocated an amount of Rs. 0.51 crore under Plan and Rs. 8.32 crores under Non-Plan during the same period.

There has been a reduction in grants-in-aid by the Government of Karnataka towards the Institute when compared to the previous year's allocation. While budgetary support to NIMHANS has been increased by the Government of India in excess of its share under the approved funding pattern both under Plan and Non-Plan, the matter has also been taken up with the Government of Karnataka to restore its share of budgetary support to the Institute.

The Institute has enhanced the user charges with effect from 1st August, 2003. The enhanced user charges will fetch an additional revenue of Rs. 1 crore per year to the Institute. This increase will not impact poor and needy patients.